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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – April 7, 2020

Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista Share Updated COVID-19 Message

Lexington, VA – As the COVID-19 public health threat continues to evolve, Rockbridge County, the City of Lexington and the City of Buena Vista have been asked to provide additional information on new cases in the area. Rockbridge County Administrator Spencer Suter, Lexington City Manager Jim Halasz, and Interim Buena Vista City Manager Jay Scudder note that, "While we want to provide the public with as much information as possible, we can only pass on reliable information, which is first verified and then reported to us from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Our Emergency Management staff remain in close contact with VDH officials. VDH has recently worked to accelerate the timeliness of online reporting, so that the numbers of confirmed cases in jurisdictions is now updated on a daily basis. Currently, VDH reports a total of ten cases in our three localities." Local and statewide information can be accessed at: http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/

Community leaders also urge residents to remain diligent in observing guidelines provided by the Governor's office and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Specifically, Virginians are asked stay at home except to:

- seek medical attention
- work
- care for family or household members
- obtain goods and services like groceries, prescriptions, and others as outlined in Executive Order Fifty-Three
- engage in outdoor activity with strict social distancing requirements

The full text of Executive Order 53 can be viewed at:

https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-53-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf

All citizens are strongly encouraged to visit the Center for Disease Control website for detailed information on simple steps which can help protect themselves, their families, our neighbors and community. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

"Please take this public health threat very seriously. The quicker we can overcome the spread, the quicker we can begin to return to normal."